

## Understanding your procedure

This information sheet will help you to understand what will happen before your procedure and how your doctors and nurses take steps to make sure that everything goes as planned.

### **At the time your procedure is planned ...**

Review all of the information on the consent form before you sign it. If you are not sure about anything, ask the staff. You, or your guardian, must sign a consent form before any procedures can take place. It should be written in words that you can understand.

Many of your questions will be answered by reading the consent form. Here are some good questions to ask in order to better understand your procedure:

- What is the name of the procedure that will be done?
- Where or what body part will be treated or examined?
- Are there any alternatives to the procedure?
- What are the risks of this procedure?
- What is likely to happen if I don't have the procedure?
- Who is in charge of the treatment team?
- About how long will it take to recover after the procedure?
- Will there be any side-effects?

### **Marking the procedure site ...**

The doctor or another member of the team may need to make a mark with a pen on the part of your body where the procedure will happen. This should be done **BEFORE** your procedure.

The doctor will sign their name or initials, or make an 'X' or 'Yes' mark on the correct body part.

Check that the mark does not rub off, as it is important for the doctors and nurses to see the mark before the procedure commences.

### **Checking who you are ...**

A number of times before the procedure, a doctor or nurse will ask you to say your name, date of birth and the part of your body that will be treated or examined. Don't be alarmed by these questions; the staff know who you are. This is how they make sure they have everything right.

### **Just before the procedure begins ...**

Just before the procedure begins, everyone in the treatment room will take a short time out and check for the last time that they have the right patient and are doing the right procedure on the right body part.

The doctors and nurses do this to ensure that everything goes as planned for your care.

It is important for you to tell your doctor about the medicines that you are taking and any allergies that you may have. Have this information with you and show it to your doctor.